

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on October 26, 2006. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 18, 19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bernardo.

Claims 18-20 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanon.

Claims 18, 19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by McDonald et al.

It is noted with gratitude that claims 21 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with all the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Although Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, for the purposes of expedited allowance, claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form with all the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Claims 18 and 20 have been cancelled as being extraneous and the dependent claims now depend ultimately from claim 21.

In light of the above amendment, claims 19 and 21-23 are deemed allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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